



Mayor Mark Mallory

City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street, Room 150, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

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Mayor Mallory and City Council Call for Mediation to Reach an Agreement on the “Banks” Development Business and Community Leaders join the Mayor and Council

Cincinnati – City leaders, led by Mayor Mark Mallory, today called upon Hamilton County Commissioners to enter into mediation to resolve the dispute over the development of the central riverfront commonly known as the Banks. Mayor Mallory was joined by a majority of City Council members, and Cincinnati business and community leaders in calling for the County Commissioners to agree to bring in a mediator to get the Banks moving forward.

Mallory stressed that mediation must happen before a developer is selected for the project. The Mayor has spoken to County Commission President Phil Heimlich and proposed mediation to bring the City and the County to an agreement. A *Cincinnati Enquirer* editorial today also called for mediation to end the stalemate.

“Everyone agrees that this development is very important to the region. However, it is clear that we have reached an impasse in coming to an agreement,” Mayor Mallory said. “We must find a way to work out these differences and move forward. The citizens of Cincinnati and Hamilton County expect their elected officials to make the Banks happen.”

At today’s new conference, the Mayor, Council members, and business and community leaders proposed that:

1. The City and County enter into mediation without condition to develop an agreement on the proposed Banks development. Both the County and the City will be permitted to bring whomever they want into the process.
2. The goal of the mediation is develop a sound financing plan, a transparent and competitive developer selection process and a shared professional project oversight program.
3. The mediators be jointly agreed to with the assistance of business and community leaders.
4. The County delay any further action on the Banks until the mediation is completed.

The community leaders stated that it is time for the County to join with the City in a different approach that can restore the fully collaborative City-County partnership model that brought us two new sports stadiums, the Freedom Center, an expanded Convention Center and a new Fort Washington Way. The community spoke today with one voice -- Hamilton County leaders need to agree to mediate the Banks development plan, returning to City-County partnership model.

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